

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a Budget Workshop on August 19, 2013 at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls, NY at 7:00pm.

PRESENT:	Mervin R. Livsey	----	Supervisor
	June Gunza	----	Council Member
	William Edsall	----	Council Member
	Holly Gokey	----	Council Member
	Kelly Blauvelt	----	Comptroller
	June Patterson	----	Town Clerk
ABSENT	James Stradley	----	Council Member

Supervisor Livsey said that before the budget workshop is started, there is an issue of a new phone system to take care of.

Supervisor Livsey explained that the phone system went down and needs to be replaced.

Council Member Gokey said there is no contract for the system because the contract price was more than if we just had a service call.

The Board agreed to purchase the new phone system.

Council Member Gokey stated that she would like information on smaller phones for some of the offices.

BUDGET

HIGHWAY:

The Board reviewed Mr. Squicciarini's budget.

Council Member Edsall asked Mr. Squicciarini to remove the Police sign by Garrison's Pond.

The Board discussed the Deputy Highway Supt.'s salary and will revisit it.

Mr. Squicciarini stated that he needs a full-time secretary. Mr. Squicciarini said there is a lot of clerical work that needs to be done

The Board discussed this issue.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

AUGUST 19, 2013

Supervisor Livsey said the best he could do was 4 more hours which would bring her to 29 hours a week.

The Board agreed that 29 hours was allowable for Mr. Squicciarini's clerk.

The Board discussed desk phones verse cell phones.

Mr. Squicciarini said this line has been reduced by 25%.

Ms. Blauvelt said the cell phone service in the building is bad.

The Board discussed Highway Other Expenses and decided to revisit this line.

Mr. Squicciarini said the Utilities line is where it needs to be.

The Board discussed reserve funds and expenditures.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

There was a discussion which included the request to hire a part-timer.

Supervisor Livsey said Mayor Flynn wants the Town to cut the grass at Roe Park.

Council Member Gunza said no.

Mr. Squicciarini said a part-timer would be able to cut grass in the summer and he would only need somebody approximately 20 hours a week between April and October.

Supervisor Livsey decided to revisit this matter.

Supervisor Livsey asked Ms. Blauvelt to have the electric meter checked at Patriot Garden.

CEMETERIES

Personnel Services is down a little and the grass cutting is up.

GARRISON POND

Mr. Squicciarini said he raised this line because the DEC Permit has gone up.

The Board discussed the Cemetery money and where it should be deposited.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

AUGUST 19, 2013

Ms. Blauvelt said she will look into it.

REFUSE

Stayed the same.

GENERAL REPAIRS

Personnel Services went down, Other Expenses went down; Fuel stayed the same, Postage is a new item; clothing is contractual and Safety Equipment remains the same.

Supervisor Livsey questioned the clothing allowance

Mr. Squicciarini said the clothing allowance is in the contract, but he suggested that at the next negotiation the employees be required to bring in a receipt to be reimbursed.

There was a discussion about how the clothing allowance is handled.

CHIPS

The CHIPS money is more this year.

MACHINE REPAIR

Personnel Services has gone up because of the contract raise.

SNOW REMOVAL

The total for Snow Removal has been reduced.

Mr. Squicciarini said there is still surplus salt from last winter and he said the REED System is working well.

The Board discussed funding the Reserve Fund for a new truck.

SANITATION

Personnel Services is contractual.

The equipment is going up \$20,000 so more cans can be purchased.

There was a discussion on garbage and recycling cans. Also, about raising the sanitation rates.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

AUGUST 19, 2013

Supervisor Livsey said it might be a good idea to raise the rates.

Council Member Edsall suggested raising the rates 10%.

10% was agreed upon and the increase will become effective January 1, 2014.

WATER DISTRICT #1 & #2

There was a discussion about the water in Hudson View Mobile Home Park.

Mr. Squicciarini said the Water Districts budgets stayed about the same.

Ms. Blauvelt said Water District #2 is waiting to hear from the EFC when they will start paying.

Ms. Blauvelt said that budget line is subject to change.

Supervisor Livsey announced that Mayor Flynn did not vote on the water for the Town because he hasn't heard from the Attorneys yet.

Council Member Edsall asked there is extra sales tax revenues from Orange County where does the money go.

Ms. Blauvelt did not have an answer.

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays
1-absent (Stradley)

Attest,